

Amendments to the Specification are as follows:

Before the first sentence on page 1 please insert the following paragraph.

This application claims the benefit of priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2002-355747, herein incorporated by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 5 and ending on page 3, line 11 as follows:

However, the conventional backlight device 310 comprises the diffusion plate 314 and the two prism sheets 315, 316 which are provided separately from the light guide plate on the light guide plate 312. Therefore, there are problems in that the number of components increase, the structure thereof becomes complicated, and the thickness and cost thereof increases.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 12 and ending on page 3, line 15 as follows:

In addition, in the prior art, ~~at~~the cheap thin backlight device which can uniformly and brightly illuminate the display area of the liquid crystal display unit 320 cannot be realized.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 16 and ending on page 3, line 19 as follows:

Further, since the conventional liquid crystal display device 300 comprises the above-mentioned backlight device 310, the thickness of the entire device increases and the cost thereof increase.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 22 and ending on page 3, line 25 as follows:

Accordingly, embodiments~~it is an object~~ of the present invention to provide a cheap thin backlight device of which the number of components is reduced and the structure is simple, and an illumination area is uniformly and brightly illuminated.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 26 and ending on page 4, line 1 as follows:

Also, embodiments~~it is another object~~ of the present invention to provide a cheap thin liquid crystal display device having a high brightness and an excellent display quality which comprises the above-mentioned backlight device.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 2 and ending on page 4, line 12 as follows:

~~In order to accomplish the above-mentioned objects, the present invention employs the below-mentioned structure.~~

The backlight device related to the present invention comprises a light source, and a light guiding plate for introducing light from the light source from an incident surface formed on the end surface to emit the light from a surface thereof. The surface of the light guide plate has a plurality of wedge-shaped grooves formed in a stripe in a plan view and a light diffusion surface having micro-protrusions formed between adjacent wedge-shaped grooves are formed.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 8 and ending on page 6, line 18 as follows:

According to the backlight device of the present invention, since one light guide plate has both a light guiding function for guiding the light emitted from the light source to emit from the emitting surface of the light guide plate and a diffusion function for diffusing the light emitted from the emitting surface, the present invention reduces the number of components as compared with the conventional backlight device provided with a diffusion plate separated from the light guide plate, thereby the structure thereof may be made simply and thin and the manufacturing cost thereof may be reduced.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 12, line 6 and ending on page 12, line 8 as follows:

Fig. 14 shows a concave portion of a second example of the diffusive reflector included in a backlight device related to the present invention in which Figs. 14a and 14b illustrate the cross-sectional and plan views, respectively;

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 12 line 12 and ending on page 12, line 14 as follows:

Fig. 16 shows a concave portion of a third example of the diffusive reflector included in a backlight device related to the present invention in which Figs. 16a and 16b illustrate the cross-sectional and plan views, respectively;

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 25 and ending on page 14, line 5 as follows:

The liquid crystal display unit 20 is a transmissive type and comprises a first substrate 21 and a second substrate 22 which are attached to each other as one body by sealing material 24. The first substrate 21 and the second substrate 22 are made of glass and face to each other with a liquid crystal layer 23 sandwiched therebetween. Display circuits 26, 27 are formed on the liquid crystal layers 23 of the first substrate 21 and the second substrate 22, respectively.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 14, line 6 and ending on page 4, line 11 as follows:

The display circuits 26 and 27 include an electrode layer (not shown) composed of a transparent conductive film for driving the liquid crystal layer 23 and an alignment film for controlling the orientation of the liquid crystal layer 23. In addition, if necessary, the display circuits 26 and 27 may include color filters for displaying color images.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 28 and ending on page 23, line 5 as follows:

The inner side of a holding member 18 has diffusion reflectivity, and the holding member 18 surrounds and accommodates the light guide plate 12, the light source 13, and the diffusive reflector 15 in a package to ~~hold~~hold integrally the light guide plate 12, the light source 13, and the diffusive reflector 15.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 31, line 19 and ending on page 32, line 6 as follows:

As shown in Fig. 12, the respective prism sheets comprise a series of triangular protrusions a and a series of wedge-shaped grooves b formed on the layer formed on the substrate. The two prism sheets 48, 49 are arranged such that the extended direction of the ridgelines of the protrusions a of one prism sheet is perpendicular to that of the other prism sheet (the prisms are orthogonal to each other) 49a, and among the light components emitted from the emitting surface 12b of the light guide plate 12, the light components in a certain direction are transmitted through one prism sheet 48, are focused at a viewing angle having any angular range, and are emitted as the emitting light. In addition, the light components in another direction are transmitted through the other prism sheet 49, are focused at the viewing angle having any angular range to be emitted as the emitting light.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 42, line 17 and ending on page 42, line 25 as follows:

Since the inclination angles of both curves are slowly changed, the maximum inclination angle δ_{\max} (absolute value) of the first curve A is larger than the maximum inclination angle δ_b (absolute value) of the second curve

B. The inclination angle of the base surface of the deepest point D on which the first curve A is contacted with the second curve B is zero, and the first curve A of which the inclination angle is a negative value and the second curve B of which the slope angle is a positive value are slowly continuous.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 43, line 11 and ending on page 43, line 16 as follows:

Also, in this embodiment, the respective specific vertical sections X of the plurality of concave portions 60 is in the same direction. Further, the first curve A is formed so as to be oriented in a single direction. That is, in all the ~~all~~ concave portions, the x direction indicated by the arrow in Figs. 18 and 19 is directed in the same direction.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 50, line 22 and ending on page 51, line 2 as follows:

For example, although the base of the diffusive reflector is composed of the substrate, the organic film, and the reflecting film in each example, it is not limited to that. For example, the base can be composed of a metal plate having high reflectivity such as an aluminum plate and the diffusive reflector can be formed by punching the whole surface using the front end (concave portion) of the punch to form a plurality of concave portions each having a predetermined depth.

Amendments to the Drawings are as follows:

The attached drawing sheet includes changes to Fig. 12. In Fig. 12, previously omitted label 49a has been added. Applicants respectfully request that Fig. 12 be replaced with the corrected Fig. 12 enclosed herewith. The correction to the figure has been marked in red. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner approve the correction. Applicants will submit corrected formal drawings upon receiving a Notice of Allowance.